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# MONTEREY NEWS

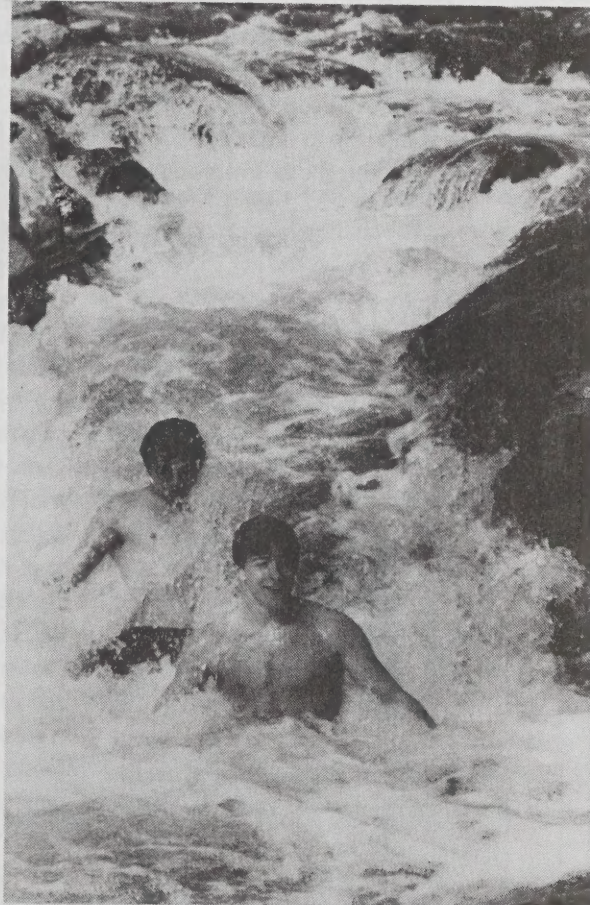
JULY 1998  
VOLUME XXVIII · Number 7



## TOWN NEWS

**"I Love Monterey" Day Saturday, July 11.** Throughout the month, the Select Board has been meeting with individuals from the town, including Linda Thorpe, Gige O'Connell, Barbara Tryon, Ellen Pearson, Tom Rosenthal and Kathy Page Wasiuk, to discuss plans for "I Love Monterey" Day. The event involves many facets of the town and looks to be a great day for the whole family. For descriptions and a detailed schedule please see page ten.

**Major Addition to the Town Hall.** After years of delay, confounded committees, and defeated proposals, the Select Board has come up with a plan to alleviate the over-crowding problem in the Town Hall. Working with architect David Bixby, from the firm of Clark and Green, the Select Board proposes to build a 1,600 square foot addition to the 1200 square foot Town Hall. The plan calls for a new entrance with a porch that will span the width of the front of the Town Hall, the length of the building will increase, and there will be two wings off to each side forming a "t" shape. The building will have an improved handicapped access entrance and an elevator, bringing it into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. There will be offices for those working in the Town Hall on a daily basis, and meeting rooms for the various



*The day was hot but the Konkapot River was roaring due to recent heavy rains. David Ohman and Lincoln Lipsky took advantage of the torrent to cool off.*

town boards and committees.

The Select Board believes architect David Bixby has created a modest plan that will effectively relieve the crowded conditions, while keeping the Town Hall in the center of town as many citizens have advocated. Due to the proximity of the proposed addition to the Konkapot River, the services of New England Environmental, Inc. were retained to help with the filing of the Notice of Intent to

the Conservation Commission, as well as to deal with the regulations of the Rivers Act. The plans for the mitigation of impact on the river were submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection and, to the pleasure of the board, approved with no additional conditions set.

**Special Town Meeting,** Friday, July 23, at 7:30 at the Fire House, Main Road. This meeting is the forum where the Select Board will present the plans for the Town Hall addition to the voters. There will be architectural plans and elevations on display, and board members will answer questions citizens may have. The Board is in the process of researching grants available to small cities and towns to help with the expense of the project. Also on the agenda for the meeting is an amendment to the Town By-laws (as distinguished from the Zoning By-laws) regarding the real estate tax exemption for volunteer firefighters. The amendment

would define the word "domicile" to include office or work space within the home.

**Roads.** Highway Superintendent Don Amstead and Police Chief Gareth Backhaus were in attendance at the June 22 meeting of the Select Board to discuss the situation at the intersection of Routes 23 and 57. There have been two fatalities in the past two years as a result of accidents at the intersection, as well as many



close calls. The State has promised to help with a redesign of the intersection, but the Select Board, worried about the potential for accidents has decided to take some interim measures. Initially it was decided to install some "rumble strips" on the right side of the Route 57 west-bound lane. After communication from harried citizens, it was discovered that drivers were swerving into the east-bound lane (and oncoming traffic) to avoid the strips instead of slowing down. It was agreed at the meeting that Amstead would oversee the installation of the rumble strips to go across the entire road. It is hoped that this will slow down drivers who are speeding and exacerbating the problems at the intersection.

Amstead also reported on Blue Hill Road which will soon be ready for paving. Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini asked about the width of the road, express-

ing concern that drivers would be tempted to speed on the now expansive stretch. Amstead assured the Board that the road is no wider than usual for an improved town road, and, when the vegetation has filled in on the sides, the road will look more like other roads in Monterey.

**Up-coming Meetings.** The Select Board will hold a public meeting for second homeowners on Saturday, August 1, at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall on Main Road. The Board welcomes input from all Monterey second homeowners.

There will be a quarterly meeting of all town boards and officers on Tuesday, August 4, at 7 p.m., to discuss conducting a town survey. At this year's Town Meeting \$2000 was approved for a survey of the town that would help to determine citizen priorities in planning for the town's future.

— Maggie Leonard

## COMMUNITY SUPPER

The last Community Supper was attended by about twenty people. Kathy Wasiuk spoke about her research on the northernmost island of Hawaii, Kauai, with particular emphasis on the history of the church and its first missionaries in the early nineteenth century.

The next Community Supper is scheduled for Thursday, July 30. Local artist Leonard Weber will discussing his work and showing his celebrated townscapes. As usual the supper begins with potluck at 6:30. Everybody is invited.

— David Bach

## LIBRARY NOTES

Kids can be detectives this summer at the Monterey Library as they participate in the statewide reading program *Unlock the Mystery - Read*. Beginning on June 15 and continuing through August 1, children ages four to twelve (and their families) can explore the world of literature and win great prizes for their efforts. All they need to do is sign up at the library, start reading and keep track of their reading in the reading logs. Children who are not yet reading can participate by having an older person read to them. It's a great way to encourage children to read over the summer and to maintain the skills they need to succeed in school. Participants will receive bookmarks, games and coupons for reduced admissions to a variety of Massachusetts cultural and recreational institutions. This program is sponsored by the Monterey Library in conjunction with the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems.

The Monterey Library will be participating in the I Love Monterey Day festivities by having its annual book sale on Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There are amazing deals to be found here with hardcover books selling for only one dollar and paperbacks going for twenty five cents each or six for one dollar. There is no cheaper way to stock up on reading material. Donations of books in good condition (no text books, please) are always welcome and can be brought to the library during regular hours. So mark July 11 on your calendar, and plan to do your book shopping at the Monterey Library.

— Laurie Shaw

### CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Come to the July 17 meeting of the Monterey Historical Society for an exciting presentation by Kathy Wasiuk titled "Lafayette Battelle: Foully Murdered?" Wasiuk has been researching the case of Lafayette Battelle, whose 1915 grave marker in the Old Center cemetery reads: "Lafayette Battelle.....Foully [sic] Murdered in His Own House in Monterey." The Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the General Knox room adjacent to the library.

On August 21 the Historical Society is presenting a magic lantern show by Elizabeth Shepard. Ms. Shepard has collected glass magic lantern slides since the early 1980's. Her program will provide an overview of the history of the magic lantern in Victorian America. Presentations of *The Raven* by Edgar Allen Poe and *The Bottle: A Temperance Lesson* will be given by her parents, Roy and Jana Shepard. Ms. Shepard is looking for old glass lantern slides of Monterey to include in her program. Lantern slides were the predecessors of today's film slides. The glass slides were usually three and one half by four inches. If anyone has glass slides of Monterey or the surrounding communities, please contact Jana Shepard at 528-2373 in Monterey or Elizabeth Shepard at 973-746-8132 by August first.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Exercise Your Franchise

To The Editor:

The annual Town meeting has come and gone. To paraphrase an old proverb, "the good or ill lingers on." The town meeting form of government is an opportunity for every voter to have a say in how the town must conduct its business for the next fiscal year. If you read between the lines the opportunity to determine the town's business is an opportunity to control your taxes and how they are spent. Town meeting is also an opportunity to set policy and determine how the town collectively stands on issues of importance to our neighboring towns and to the world. If "all politics is local" then certainly town meeting is the most important lobbying event that a voter can enjoy. At the May 2 Monterey town meeting about ten percent, or some eighty plus voters attended and took part. The annual town election, held concurrently with the town meeting, had a slightly greater participation.

There were no contests on the ballot so it might be expected that participation would not be high. But there were several items on the town meeting warrant that should have, and did, provoke a good measure of discussion. It's a given that there are some articles on the warrant which are usually non-controversial and some that are very dull. This

year's warrant was more interesting than some of its predecessors because of several articles that were presented by citizen petition.

So what's my point? Simply that a small percentage of voters cared enough to take care of their civic duties. They attended town meeting and they exercised their responsibility to vote in the annual election of town officers. A large majority of town voters did neither! They weren't represented at all! I like to think that the minority who were active voted in everyone's best interest. But that may not always be so. The potential for a small number of citizens to run roughshod over the best interests of all the citizens of Monterey is amplified by the lack of participation of so many registered voters. That certainly didn't appear to be the case this year, but if you don't participate please remember the turmoil that can result because you failed to exercise your franchise to participate in the most basic and direct form of self government that exists in our wonderful nation.

— Peter S. Brown

**Bulky Waste Collection.** The Town of Monterey and the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District will sponsor a furniture and bulky-waste collection at the Monterey Transfer Station on the following dates:

Wednesday, July 15, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, July 18, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

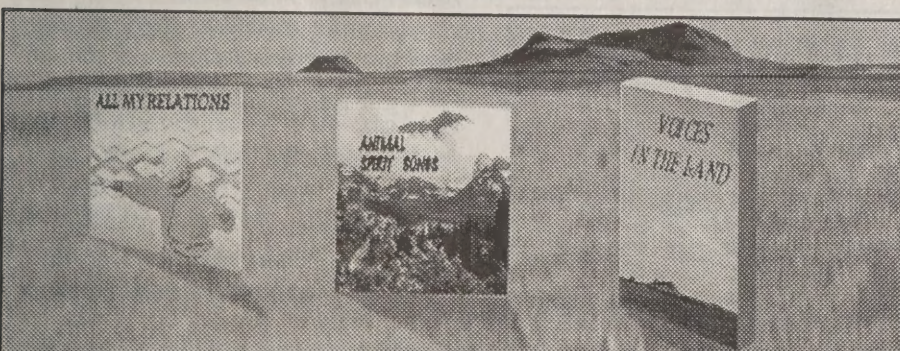
Sunday, July 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Peter S. Vallianos**  
Attorney at Law  
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers, and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

\*\*\*

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.



Thank You Monterey Church! During July/August Four Colors, a non-profit Multi-Media Co. offers readers of the Monterey News an opportunity to support the Church building fund through the purchase of Native American storytelling CD/csst: *ALL MY RELATIONS*, Native American music CD: *ANIMAL SPIRITS*, and educational video of Monterey's own Rawson Brook Farm: *VOICES OF THE LAND*. For info call 528-0253, see AMR online Amazon.com and [www.rocvision.com/grmkitty.htm](http://www.rocvision.com/grmkitty.htm). CDs \$20/\$15; Csst \$12; Video \$15. Visa/MC



## NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL AND MONTEREY SCHOOL

June 12 was the last day of the 1997-1998 school year for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. This last month was a whirlwind of activity at New Marlborough Central (NMC). Mrs. Pottle's third/fourth grade class visited the Hancock Shaker Village. Mrs. Ladd's first/second grade and Mr. Weston's second/third grade classes spent a day at the Clark Art Institute. Edgar Degas' *Little Dancer, Fourteen Years Old* was "the best" according to daughter Dinah.

Field Day, a morning devoted to fun and sport-oriented games, was held June 3. A few years ago, Claire Mielke suggested to Mr. Seavey, the phys-ed teacher, that fifth grade alumni of NMC come back to help out at Field Day. He liked

the idea and it is now a tradition. Claire continues as head student assistant.

Campbell product labels (2,460 to be exact) and General Mills box tops were collected throughout the year and redeemed this spring for books and a cash award of fifty five dollars. The Monterey Kindergarten was the recipient of the money for the purchase of books. Keep collecting these items over the summer for a head start on next year. The final tally on the PTA penny drive - \$182.00 toward enrichment activities for the children. It's been a great year. Good luck to those students going on to fifth grade (maybe we'll see you at Field Day!) and welcome to those children moving up from Monterey Kindergarten to NMC. See you in September.

— Deborah Mielke

## DELEGATES ATTEND CONVENTION

On June 6, 1998 three delegates and one alternate from Monterey attended the Democratic Party Convention in Worcester, MA. The purpose of this Convention was to select the party's nominees for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. Delegates attending from Monterey included Democratic Party Chairman, Charles Ferris and Gige O'Connell and Gary Shaw. Gerry Shapiro, an alternate delegate, also attended.

Lois Pines, with fifty seven percent of the convention vote, received the party's nomination for Attorney General over challenger Tom Reilly. Warren Tollman, a State Senator, crushed opponent, Dorothy Kelly Gay with eighty three percent of the votes at the convention. The highlight and hotly contested vote of the convention was the battle for the gubernatorial nomination. Candidates included Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, former State Senator Patricia McGovern, and Brian Donnelly, a former Congressman and Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. In order to obtain the party's nomination a candidate had to achieve one vote more than fifty percent of the delegates attending. While delegates Charles Ferris and Gige O'Connell voted for McGovern, Gary Shaw cast one of the crucial votes in favor of Scott Harshbarger, who ultimately obtained *two votes* over the fifty percent required for the nomination.

All of the candidates will, nevertheless, have a second chance to obtain the party's nomination in the September primary, since the only requirement to qualify for the primary ballot is to obtain fifteen percent of the votes at the Convention.

— Charles J. Ferris, Chairman  
Democratic Town Committee

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Wednesday .....3-5 p.m.  
Saturday .....9:30 a.m.-noon  
.....7-9 p.m.

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## THE BIDWELL HOUSE

The Bidwell House building restoration project is complete! The museum is sporting a new red cedar roof, copper-lined wood gutters, fresh paint, reglazed windows, and a restored farm shop outbuilding. Thanks to a matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and generous donations from many of you, the Bidwell House will be here for many more generations of Monterey residents.

The Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund offered by the MHC has been responsible for the restoration work to many of Berkshire County's historical landmarks. In addition to the Bidwell House project, the Historical Commission has funded the Edith Warton restoration, the New Marlborough Meeting House, Arrowhead, and the Monterey Meeting House just to name a few.

July will see the full swing of the summer season and the Bidwell House will kick off the month with an exhibit of the museum's basket collection. The exhibit, titled "In and Out: The Bidwell House Baskets," will highlight many baskets from the

thirty-plus collection which are not usually on display for the public. Because baskets were used both indoors and outside, the basket exhibit is a way of tying an aspect of our historical collections with the season's focus on the gardens. The exhibit schedule is from July 5 through August 23 and will feature a wide range of antique baskets such as Shaker peach and berry baskets, settler's baskets, Native American baskets, and an antique bee skep. The exhibit is part of the regular house tour with baskets on display throughout the museum. The exhibit is free with regular house admission; \$ 5 for adults, \$4 seniors/ students, and \$1 for children.

A lecture on the basket collection is scheduled for August with basket expert Gerry Kennedy. In addition, Gerry will conduct a basket making workshop the same day, teaching participants how to make a "Kitten Head" pincushion basket. On August 19 the museum will also host a workshop on making a "Market" basket. Please call 528-6888 for further information and reservations for workshops.

On Friday July 10 and Saturday July

11, the Bidwell House gardens will be part of a statewide garden tour sponsored by the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts. The tour will feature seventy five gardens throughout the state. The Bidwell House will be one of five gardens open to the public in the Berkshires. For more information on the Garden Club Tour please phone 888-982-TOUR.

The Bidwell House will host the Annual Folk Concert on Saturday, August 1 from 2-4 p.m., this year featuring Monterey's own Mountain Laurel String Band with Bonner McAllester on hammered dulcimer, Joe Baker on guitar, and Donny MacLean on fiddle. The band plays New England-style waltzes, gigs, and old-timey dance tunes and the concert promises a wonderful afternoon of entertainment for the whole family. We wouldn't be surprised if the band calls a contra dance or two for the audience. Museum grounds open at 11 a.m. and picnics are welcome. A tent will be provided for shelter from rain or shine, but if the weather proves very bad please call for a rain site. Tours will be offered at a special discount for those attending the concert ( no tours offered after 2 p.m.) Admission is \$ 8 for adults and \$ 5 for children. A discount is offered to museum members.

The Bidwell House Folk Concert is supported by a grant from the Local Cultural Councils of the towns of Monterey, Alford-Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, Stockbridge, and Tyringham; all local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

## The BIDWELL HOUSE ANNUAL FOLK CONCERT

Saturday, August 1

2:00 – 4:00

Adults \$8 ~ Children \$5

Featuring The

**MOUNTAIN LAUREL STRING BAND**

Bonner McAllester, hammered dulcimer

Joe Baker, guitar

Donny MacLean, fiddle

Old style New England dance music

Supported by a grant from the Local Cultural Councils of the towns of Monterey, Alford-Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, Stockbridge, and Tyringham; all local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Art School Road ~ Monterey, MA ~ 528-6888





## WILSON/MCLAUGHLIN HOUSE

There will be a meeting regarding the future of the Wilson/McLaughlin house and property on Thursday, July 23, at 5 p.m. It will be held at the property and should be of particular interest to those of you who have not been to view the house when it was previously open to the public, or to those who wish to revisit the site.

The meeting of June 16 at the Town Hall was attended by fifteen people, including the members of the Select Board. The Wilson House Committee reviewed what has been done to date to preserve the property and Bally Gally, the little gray house next to the main house. The restriction of the bequest, that the original house must remain on the property, was also reemphasized. Various uses and possibilities for the property and house were discussed. Collaboration with the Historical Society for the use of the house, and using the present General Knox museum (a room adjacent to the library)

as an addition to the library, was one suggestion. It was pointed out by Cynthia Weber that when the state gave the funds to build the museum in 1976, the Historical Society, as a private organization, provided the matching funds. Another idea was to build a new kindergarten on the property, in cooperation with the Southern Berkshire Regional School district. This would serve the dual purposes of replacing the antiquated facility on Route 23, and could be made available to the community during off-school times. It was a productive brainstorming session and many creative ideas were reviewed by the group. Although no vote was taken those present seemed to agree that the town of Monterey should preserve this property for future use.

Come and look at the property first hand. Join your neighbors and bring your ideas to the next meeting on Thursday, July 23, at 5 p.m.

— Gige O'Connell

## GOULD FARM ICE CREAM

### Here's The Scoop

An ice cream stand popped up along the Roadside this spring. You may have noticed the sign. Bev's Homemade Ice Cream is now on sale in Monterey.

Dan Mazursky, one of Bev's owners, is a Roadside Store regular who usually comes in for omlettes. Conversation across the counter eventually led to the ice cream thing. We talked about how cool it would be to serve Bev's at Roadside, how good it would be for his business and for ours. One day, in early May, Dan took it to another level; we began talking cold, hard facts.

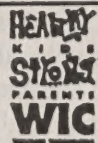
When Dan left that day we were abuzz with excitement. Megan, who had been working for nearly a year at the cafe, turned around and said, "Wouldn't it be cool if he could make a flavor using our maple syrup?" We all paused in amazement, and then the possibilities began to unfold. In a flurry of exclamations and hugs, phone calls and returned calls, a great idea was born. We call it Gould Farm Maple Crunch; Dan calls it Maple Caramel Nut. Call it whatever you want, but don't miss out.

We sold several gallons our first (cold! rainy!) month. It is delicious, creamy, subtle, yummy ice cream. At Gould Farm we talk about supportive, accomodating work places. We talk about nurturing individual growth. We talk about entrepreneurial spirit and the value of taking risks. But bascially we get through most of our work days worrying about the details of safety and stability. For us to have a few weeks of flurry and fun, inspired by the creative energy of a guest, is sweeter than even the sweetest product.

Dan lent us a freezer. Al made some beautiful signs. Alex dug a trench to level the ground while Dan and Dan ran the wiring. We picked up some ice cream scoops and set up shop on Memorial Day weekend. Along with Maple Nut we serve Espresso Oreo, Raspberry Chip, Vanilla, Chocolate, and a wonderful Mango sorbet for the non-dairy crowd. We'll be scooping all summer, into the late afternoon on the weekends. Come by. Sample this new Gould Farm product and ask for it at other Bev's locations.

— Amy Goldfarb

Manager, Roadside Store



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## The Roadside Store & Cafe

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4:30-7:30

June 27 "More Beef for the Bard"

July 4 "Contra Dancing & Nightjar"

July 11 "The Roadside goes uptown  
for I Love Monterey Day"

August 8 "Vikki True"



Grilled picnic foods and Bev's Homemade Ice Cream sold at all events.

\* SUGGESTED \$4 DONATION FOR ENTERTAINMENT \*  
Call 528-2633 for more information.

The Roadside Store is open daily, 7:30am - 2:30pm, serving breakfast and lunch.



## IN SEARCH OF THE ABSOLUTE

### A "Titanic" Adventure!

It seems like I have been inordinately preoccupied with material wealth for the past couple of months. There have been and continue to be a plethora of news articles describing the huge amounts of money that are washing around (if not over and through) our lives. In some parts of the country, one million dollars will buy you an "entry level" house. The average price of an automobile is now the same amount that my folks paid for a brand new house in 1972. The number of millionaires and billionaires is increasing at a breathtaking pace. The stock market is awash with so much money, invested by the person on the street, that investors are having a difficult time finding places to put it! Consumer indebtedness is climbing, (if you don't have the cash, use plastic) and the nation's trade imbalance is once again posting record deficits. And we are told not to worry!

The phenomenal popularity of the film *Titanic* is an interesting commentary on the contemporary social scene. The lead female character was the epitome of opulence with a swimming pool, gymnasium, squash court, verandahs, a darkroom, a Turkish bath and a special compartment for storing automobiles. As one wag wrote, "What the Titanic is most remembered for is being a ten million dollar casket!" More than 1500 people died when the oceanliner sank. The event stands in sharp contrast to Captain E.J. Smith's comments. Captain Smith, later the captain of the Titanic, said in an interview with the *New York Times* six years before the sinking: "I cannot imagine any condition which would cause a modern ship to founder....Modern ship-building has gone beyond that." I'll bet his imagination was considerably enlivened upon confronting an iceberg in the North Atlantic!

These days similar statements are being made by politicians, corporate executives and economists about the nearly 'absolute rightness' of U.S. capitalism. In some cases, this rebounding of the U.S. economy is being described as a

new form of imperialism. It's as if economic policy and divine decree have merged. In the midst of this newly-acquired wealth, it is dismaying to see the increasing discrepancy between the wealthy and the poor, not only in this society, but also among the nations of the world.

Where am I going with this? Just as the sinking of the Titanic was a pivotal event in the social history of Western Europe and the U.S., so, I believe, is the current wave of lopsided wealth and materialism. Both constitute harbingers; they are forerunners of significant shifts in our local and global society. (I don't think it has anything to do with the millennium. This is not a "doomsday" column.) It just seems to me that the present focus on acquiring more and more money, material, and worldly goods, is happening at the expense of human caring and sensitivity. These values need not be mutually exclusive, but it appears that is what is happening. From individuals to families to businesses to religious and social groups, decisions are being made that place material and economic security over human growth and compassion. The daily news is full of illustrative material. While we continue to surround ourselves with increasing amounts of material goods, the human spirit becomes more impoverished. Also, technological wizardry allows us the illusion of having mastery over our fate. There is nothing

we can't do, if we simply apply the right technology. Like those who built, captained, and sailed the Titanic in 1912 (immediately prior to the W.W. I and the Great Depression), we believe that we are in control.

I think it's time for a change. Jon Krakauer's best-selling book, *Into the Wild*, takes a quote from Boris Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*: "Everything had changed suddenly - the tone, the moral climate; you didn't know what to think, whom to listen to....There was no one around, neither family nor people whose judgment you respected. At such a time you felt the need of committing yourself to something absolute - life or truth or beauty - of being ruled by it in place of the man-made rules that had been discarded. You needed to surrender to some such ultimate purpose more fully, more unreservedly than you had ever done...." For me, that "something absolute" is the Jesus manifestation or revelation of God. (Notice I wrote "Jesus revelation" and not Christian Church. The two are often not the same.) The hunger and need for security and truth are embraced by the love that Jesus embodies, and the need to control and manipulate gives way to trust and surrender. In this way life is seen and experienced as a gift and not a possession.

— Keith Snow, Pastor  
Monterey United Church of Christ

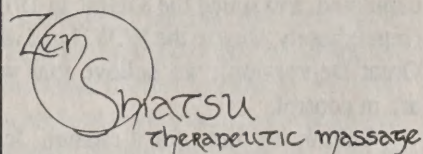


## MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Keith Snow, Pastor

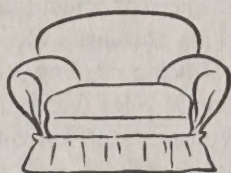
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## THE FAMILY NETWORK CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

The Family Center is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington: call 528-0721 for more information. All activities are at the Family Center, unless otherwise noted.

**Safety Information.** Many parents have asked for safety information during storm warnings. Paul Harvey, Civil Defense Director in New Marlborough, provided the following information: "When a weather warning is issued, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement. If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Stay away from windows. Get out of automobiles. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car, instead, leave it immediately. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible. Remain alert for signs of an approaching tornado (listen for the birds and observe your animals). Flying debris from tornadoes causes most deaths and injuries." More information is available

at the Family Center in Great Barrington.

**Swimming lessons** will be held at the following places: Lake Garfield, Monterey - Swim America will hold classes. Call Bill Meier at 528-6619. Southern Berkshire Youth Association will also hold swimming lessons at Lake Mansfield. Call 528-6080.

**State Parks.** The Family Network has obtained parking fee waivers for specific days during the months of July and August for families to visit state parks at Beartown in Monterey and York Lake in Sandisfield. Check our calendar for specific dates.

**Berkshire Theatre Festival** passes for children's theater are available at the Family Center. The passes are sponsored by the Arts Council of Stockbridge and the Family Network. Please call the Family Center for information.

**Lending Library.** We have added to our lending library a workbook for children to use with guidance from their parents entitled, "When Mom and Dad Separate." Free copies are available at the Family Center in Great Barrington.

Ideas for birthday parties for young children have been added to the notebook of internet articles at the Family Center in Great Barrington. Please ask a staff member to copy an article for you. Also, take time to look through our collection of activity and craft books to get some ideas of things to do on rainy days.

Here is our calendar

**Great Barrington Family Center drop-in times:** Mondays noon-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon. Center closed July 3 and Fourth of July holiday. Enjoy and be safe!

**Drop-in times for the Family Center at the Otis Town Hall, second floor:** Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon; on nice days, the playgroup will be held at the Otis Consolidated School playground.

**Every Monday, Play and Learn Group** for three and four year olds, registration required 10 a.m.-noon.

**Every Monday, 5:30 p.m. Father-Child Playgroup.**

**Every Tuesday, Mother-Baby Exercise Class** 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required and childcare will be provided.

**Every Tuesday, English as a sec-**

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ond language, (ESL) 9:30 a.m. Childcare provided. Please call to register. Classes will not be held on July 21 and 28 due to the instructor's vacation.

**Every Wednesday,** Parent-Child Playgroup will be held at the Undermountain School playground. If rainy, the playgroup will be held at the Family Center in Great Barrington 10 a.m.-noon.

**Every Thursday,** Parent-Child Playgroup will be held at the Family Center in Great Barrington 10 a.m.-noon. Some special events will also be planned on Thursdays.

**July 2,** Picnic at York Lake, Sandisfield, Route 183, 11 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch. Enjoy the beach and the trails. Lifeguard will be on duty. Parking fee waiver for families with Family Network of Children's Health Program, Inc.

**July 4,** Fourth of July Holiday. The Family Center will be closed.

**July 7,** Support group for licensed day care providers 7 p.m. There will be a discussion of training needs for the fall.

**July 9,** Field trip to Berkshire Garden Center 10 a.m. Call to register.

**July 10,** Picnic at Beartown State Park, Monterey, 11 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch. Enjoy beach and trails. Lifeguard will be on duty. Parking fee waiver in effect.

**July 13,** Father-Child activity, pizza and paper airplanes 5:30 p.m. Call to register.

**July 16,** Parent-infant drop-in, 1 p.m. Learn baby massage from Vicki Guy, Physical Therapist. Meet other parents of infants. Call to register.

**July 17,** Picnic at York Lake, Sandisfield 11 a.m. Bring a picnic. Enjoy the beach and trails. Lifeguard will be on duty. Parking fee waiver in effect.

**July 21,** Parent rap session 10 a.m. Topic: "Terrific Twos" facilitated by Claudette Callahan, Coordinator of the Family Network. Childcare will be provided at the Family Center. Come share your successes and disappointments with other parents of two year olds. Call to register.

**July 23,** Sculpture with Laurel Tewes 10 a.m. Activities planned for children aged 4-6 years. Siblings and other children may attend the playgroup. Call to register.

**July 24,** Picnic at Beartown State Park,

Monterey 11 a.m. Bring a picnic. Enjoy the beach and trails. Lifeguard will be on duty. Parking fee waiver in effect.

**July 27,** Father-child activity, bubbles and barbecue, 5:30 p.m. Call to register.

**July 28,** Parent rap session 10 a.m. Topic: "Tremendous Threes" facilitated by Claudette Callahan, Coordinator of the Family Network. Childcare will be provided at the Family Center. Come share your successes and disappointments with other parents of three year olds.

**July 31,** Picnic at York Lake, Sandisfield 11 a.m. Bring a picnic. Enjoy the beach and trails. Lifeguard will be on duty. Parking fee waiver in effect.

**In case of rain on picnic days, meet at Family Center in Great Barrington for an indoor picnic.**

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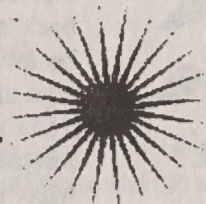
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# I LOVE MONTEREY DAY

## Saturday, July 11 • Schedule of Events

**8:30 a.m. - Knox Trail Run** sign up begins, entry fee \$5.

**9 a.m. - Knox Trail Fun Run for Kids.** Children twelve and under are welcome in this race that begins at the old Firehouse (opposite New Marlborough Road) and ends in the center of town. Come and see who is the fastest kid in town.

**9:30 a.m. - Knox Trail Run 4.5 miles.** This race features hill and dale, sun and shade, paved road and dirt—something for everyone. Beginning at the Town Hall in the center of Monterey, runners will proceed on Route 23 to Curtis Road, then hang a left onto Wellman Road, cruising to a left on New Marlborough Road, and then a left back into the center of town. Trophies will be awarded and the first fifty runners to sign up will receive t-shirts.

**9-11:30 a.m. - The Meeting House Committee Open House** in the basement of the Meeting House (a.k.a. church for those summer residents who missed the metamorphosis). This is an opportunity to get updated on the historical restoration of the Meeting House and view the architectural plans on display. Videos of "old Monterey" will also be showing.

**10a.m.-1 p.m. - Library Book Sale.** Don't miss this great opportunity to stock up on summer reading. Last year's great find, Hemingway's *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, in hardcover for \$1.25. Also, The General Knox Museum, adjacent to the library, will be open in the morning.

**10:30 - Gould Farm Trail Dedication,** park along Curtis Road, signs will indicate the exact location of the event. A wonderful trail and a chance to honor the folks that built it. Gould Farm has also produced a very snazzy trail guide complete with a

map by David Markwood Smith, descriptions of the flora and fauna, and many wonderful nature illustrations by Bonner McAllester.

**12 Noon - Monterey Land Trust Picnic and Hike** on Mount Hunger. Come all ye couch potatoes and enjoy the latest acquisition by the Land Trust. Everyone is welcome to either loll in this idyllic spot or hike on the newly-made trail. Bring your own picnic.

**12 Noon - Sand Castle Building Contest,** Lake Garfield, Tyringham Road. Builders are welcome to begin their creations any time after noon, judging will take place at 4:30 p.m. Let's see who will nudge last year's winners from their lofty perch. First prize wins breakfast at the Roadside Store.

**2-4p.m. - Ice Cream Social at Rock Ridge,** Tyringham Road. The perfect way to celebrate the centennial of the quintessential lake home of your dreams. Come hear first-hand reminiscences about life through the years at this great estate, and enjoy the benefits of Berkshire Ice Cream's generous donation.

**5-7p.m. - Picnic at the Fire House** catered by Gould Farm or bring your own. Menu includes hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, salad, pie, and drinks. Join your friends and neighbors for a great dinner, and get the warm fuzzys about what an amazingly great town this is.

**7-10p.m. - Contradance** at the pavillion behind the Fire House with Mountain Laurel Band, Joe Baker calling. O.K., enough of the warm fuzzys, it's time to work off the afternoon ice cream and that incredible Gould Farm pie. We'll all shake a leg together for a real New England hoe-down!

**10 p.m. - Are you still here?** Don't you know it's past your bedtime?





## **FIRST PLACE**

### **SUSAN MCALLESTER MEMORIAL**

#### **PHOTO CONTEST**

"Barred Owl" by Storrs Olds.

Category: Nature/Wildlife

This shot immediately caught the attention of the judges. According to the Storrs the owl was "...hanging around the house for a few days, and then was gone." Congratulations to Storrs for a great photo of a magnificent bird.

## **SECOND PLACE**

### **SUSAN MCALLESTER MEMORIAL**

#### **PHOTO CONTEST**

"Lake Garfield" by Jean Germain.

Category: Nature/Scenic

This photo was thought by the judges to be a lovely representation of the idyllic New England lake in summertime. They also commended the photographer for particularly good composition.





## BIG SHOT

*Big shot,  
Very famous,  
Movie star,  
Important person  
Giant ego,  
Mega jerk,  
Lost voice,  
Fell down,  
Lost job,  
No house,  
Homeless person,  
Frost-bitten,  
Humbled man.*

— Nathan Brown

## THIRD PLACE

### SUSAN MCALLESTER MEMORIAL

#### PHOTO CONTEST

“Swallowtail Butterfly” by Lyman Thompson.  
Category: Nature/Wildlife

The judges thought this photo was a lovely moment  
showing the beauty of nature and springtime.

## THE WINTER STICK

*The winter stick is up on Hupi Road  
tipped a phallic flame  
It's there to mark the hidden culvert  
to a brook bone dry—  
why, it's only early June!*

*Perhaps an omen  
of a season yet unlived  
with snows to come  
I will pass it daily now, walking alone  
butterflies and buttercups!  
asking myself  
is this the world axis set apart  
pointing to the pole of detachment  
or to a solstice of a heart?*

— A.O. Howell





## OH LEAD ME

*Oh for strings on cloud filled days  
for gaiety is made in fluttering  
melodies and leaves, oh lead me  
She is in the far garden  
on her way to the furthest  
bring her a message from the  
burning house that times have changed  
but pain still surges through the  
skull and guts and knees and soul  
and needs be heeded, but most-  
ly isn't: foxglove truths  
Sum and substance heron sees  
paints a path, a garden blue  
in warbling a wren's delight  
on shoes not meant for marching  
nor stomping out a flame of  
innocence or difference  
Oh lead me, dance me drunken  
'round and 'round wisteria  
wound in full moon mystery*

*Bring her news of falling crowns  
of karmic retribution  
of stocks and bonds in chaos  
yes, of chaos at the helm  
of bloody gutters running  
toward the sea of mine and yours  
ecstasy of mushroom clouds  
and the deadly silent morn  
Oh lead me, laughing in the  
lupines at Love's paradox  
head bowed as branches bended  
in the rain, passion pouring  
for thirsty roots, for dry souls  
Call her softly in the garden  
farthest from the clamoring  
crowds of summer's streets and fests  
bring her a barrel to fill  
full with tears, lest any go  
ungrieved, unnoticed in their  
plowing of our vulgar soils  
toward the furthest garden  
Oh lead me to her bed of  
roses, rank with scent of sex-  
ual blossoming, to die*

— R. Zukowski

## HONORABLE MENTION

### SUSAN MCALLESTER MEMORIAL

#### PHOTO CONTEST

"Benedict Pond Family" by Lauren Paul.  
Category: Nature/Wildlife

A wonderfully meditative image showing the serene beauty in nature.





## WILDLIFE SURVEY

The first thing to note is that viburnum and mountain laurel are flowering in unusual abundance in this May-June time period. On the same theme of reproduction, phoebes, bluebirds, robins, tree swallows, herons, to name a few, are all busily feeding their young and ducks and geese are followed by files of young ones, learning to fend for themselves.

**Laurels:** along the roads, in sunny places on hilltops and around the shores of lakes and ponds the laurel blossoms are mounded up in large clusters in such profusion we ought to have a Laurel Commission arranging hourly tours. They range from pink to white and in every possible combination. Perhaps the extra sunlight let into our woods by the tornadoes accounts, in part, for such a festival.

**Viburnums.** Also along the roads are several species of viburnum, ranging from the showy white high bush cranberry, as striking as dogwood, to the greener white umbels of witherod, nannyberry, and sweet viburnum.

**Bishop's weed.** Also called gout weed, perhaps for a supposed affinity between high-living bishops and gout, is also flourishing along our roads. It is another creamy-white umbel, but in low beds a foot and a half high.

**Other flowers.** It is the flowers that are in full sway, now: daisies, blue-eyed grass, red clover, yellow hawkweed at its height and orange hawkweed just beginning, celandine, wild honeysuckle, swamp azalea (just as fragrant as its

cousin the pink azalea or pinxter, now gone past), water cress, sand plum, flowering maple, flowering raspberry, hellebore, blueflag, buttercup, daylily, primrose, meadow rue, bedstraw, daisy fleabane, yellow iris, bladder campion, sarsparilla, nettle, pipsissewa, forget-me-not, water knotweed, and cow lily.


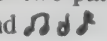
**Milfoil.** There are a few small patches of milfoil in bloom on Lake Garfield but nothing like the big patches, twenty or thirty feet across, of other years.

**Birds.** From Jon Sylbert and Lisa Smyle: "There are three families of geese on Brewer Pond. They spend much of their day on the town lawn by the outlet, and we have counted twenty goslings in the gaggle. As far as we can tell there are four heron nestling in the top platform and three in the middle platform in the tree in Pearson's Pond. We tried to stay long enough to get a complete count but the beaver there told us to "move along." On a recent outing to Tyringham Cobble (June 9) we sighted a scarlet tanager, an indigo bunting, a blue-winged warbler, a female blackburnian warbler, a gang of cedar waxwings, and heard the wing-beating of a ruffed grouse and the distinctive pingpong-ball-dropping-on-table song of a field sparrow. Backyard visitors at the house include frequent evening passes under the birdfeeder by a raccoon and one day a skunk, and we have a single rose-breasted grosbeak who manages to remove a seed or two from the feeder, occasionally, despite the size of his beak. Also, on May 18 and 19 there was a barred owl "Who Cooks for You" -

ing, in the neighborhood".

Bonner and Joe report their first veery, May 16. Barbara Tryon reports three families of bluebirds nesting at Lowland Farm, but one male has been killed by some predator who left the feathers to sorrow over. Several eager birders have seen a nesting pair of goshawks in Monterey. They don't like to have visitors and will stoop at intruders with those big talons at the ready. The tree swallows Eleanor Kimberley reported have settled into two of her bird houses.

Dale Duryea has seen the eagle, off the Point on Lake Garfield. A bear has damaged a bird feeder and helped himself to the contents on the Hupi Road side of Mount Hunger. Dale spotted a buck with his antlers partly grown ("in velvet") in a field by Curtis Road. When the truck stopped, twenty feet away, the buck calmly went on browsing, a first in Dale's experience with wildlife. He's heard of a bear hit by a car in Lenox.

**Beaver social life.** On May 28 I stopped in my canoe by a very large beaver house at the east end of Lake Garfield. I've heard them conversing inside the house in other years and made some imitation beaver sounds to see if they would answer. All was quiet for some time and then a chorus of puppy-like squeaks filled the air, as though they had been interrupted in their nursing. They sounded like this:  Then the mother answered with two-patterned gentle grunts:  . Then there was the vigorous sound of an adult beaver gnawing purposefully on a stick.

**Insect life.** The black flies have given way to mosquitoes and gnats. The trouble with the latter is that they can crawl right through those wonderful insect veils. Fire flies are signaling in the night and butterflies are illuminating the day. I have spotted many tiger swallowtails and mourning cloaks. The aerial acrobatics of tree swallows, and the direct action of phoebes make an interesting contrast. The latter perch and swoop, but the swallows never seem to rest as they soar, veer, circle, dart, and sail through the comestiferous air.

— David P. McAllester



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# TO KILL A TURTLE

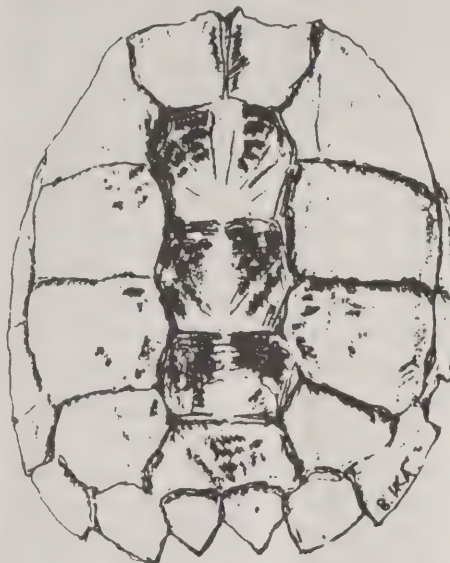
I have a friend who cannot bear to listen to the news on the radio or television. The news itself is almost always horrifying, but as if this were not off-putting enough, my friend says, it is delivered in a cheery, sports-announcer way which gives her the chills. She can read the news, just, but she hasn't got the armor or sense of remove to tolerate the jolly telling of disasters.

A newscaster must have to set up a buffer in order to survive the job. I was shocked during my first days working in a hospital operating room, years ago, to hear the surgeons whistling songs from Sergeant Pepper as they worked away, like garage mechanics. We do have to get on with things, not lose ourselves in each day's many tragedies, right?

Just think of the little (and not so little) corpses strewn along our paths as we zoom about our days and nights. I'm talking about road-killed animals here, and if you could hear me on the radio, you would notice I am matter-of-fact. Death comes, usually instantly, and the butterfly, or warbler, or chipmunk, or fox, or deer lies still. Right away the agents of change begin to reorganize its molecules into the next incarnation: compost, a raven, the atmosphere, a slug, some beetles. I am philosophical. These crazy little innocents dash out on the highway and what can we do? Even if we see them in time, to swerve could be suicidal (for us). It doesn't do to feel these things too much, to shed too many tears, to sob in the telling. Regrets, yes—but responsibility?

And what about perspective? Should we weep for the little spotted fawn but not for the June bug or the deer fly? It gets too confusing, this life and death business. I am always relieved when I can see a thing clearly and have a straight and narrow emotion over something. When I hear the news, listen to the whistling surgeons, or speed by the ruined bodies of innocent creatures, I am likely to feel some of this and some of that. I feel like I don't know just where to stand and I stumble along, emotionally, looking for firmer ground.

There is one place I can always find it, and that is on the shoulder of the highway, in a crushed carapace, a flattened turtle. I get the purest rush of anger, edged with shame. Who could swerve to hit a turtle? This slow and harmless reptile, this survivor from an age 250 million years ago, is probably a female on her most dangerous and important as-



Snapping turtle carapace, found during winter draw-down of Lake Garfield.

signment: continuation of the species. She has left the safety of her pond or lake in order to lay eggs in some sandy or gravel place. Maybe she hasn't even started across the pavement yet, or maybe, against all odds, she has made it through two or four or more lanes of traffic. She is resting on the shoulder and some unspeakable jerk has gone out of his (or her) way to crush her.

Not all turtles dead on the highway are the work of unspeakable jerks. Some have been flattened by good people, animal lovers in a hurry or in the dark, on a rainy night. They are unaware, or else regretful. Recently here in Monterey I saw a small turtle on Main Road a little east of town. I stopped and jumped out to take her to safety, but as I picked her up I saw I was too late. She had just been hit and though her legs still moved vaguely, rhythmically, as if to take her to a good egg-laying spot, it was clear she would never finish that job.

A small blue car was turning around

up the road, coming back. A young, distressed face: "Is it all right? I didn't hit it....." "Well, someone hit it," I said. "I'll take it home and kill it."

So I have killed my first turtle (that I know of) and it took some study. Even with her shell broken, her ribs crushed, her head misshapen, she was a fortress. She could haul her poor neck back with surprising strength, making it a tough job for me to find a quick place to release her from her mangled skeleton.

Now she is reorganizing into garden compost here, with the help of thousands of living organisms such as worms, beetles, and bacteria. Surely their lives are just as precious and just as expendable as hers or mine. This story is as complex as any evening newscast and I don't know what tone of voice I would use. I'm just glad that I'm human so I can drive a fast car and so I can tell the difference between myself and some unimaginable creep when we are out there killing turtles on purpose. What I'm struggling with is that, to the turtle, we're the same.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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## HAPPY 100TH ROCK RIDGE

Rock Ridge was born with a silver spoon in her mouth, conceived by the prestigious Chicago architectural firm, Patton and Fisher. Norman S. Patton was an Easterner from Hartford, Connecticut, who graduated from MIT in 1874 and is credited with a number of important mid-western buildings, including those at Oberlin College, Beloit University, Oak Park, Illinois, and, of course, Chicago, where his firm built the first large housing development. The grounds were equally well pedigreed, designed by the Frederick Law Olmstead firm, creators of Central Park and the Biltmore estate. Their planting notes speak of a meeting on March 25, 1898: "Arrived in Great Barrington at 8:07. Met by Heath's hired man. Went to Curtiss's office and got survey. Said cost had been twenty nine dollars—odd. Drove to Monterey, one and a quarter to one and a half hours with poor road. Met Mrs. Judd and Heath." These notes speak of the involvement and preferences of the owner, Curtiss J. Judd and his wife. According to *The Valley Gleaner* (the Lee newspaper) on November 16, 1898, "The third generation, represented by Curtiss J. Judd of Chicago, during a visit in the fall of 1897, and illustrating his appreciation of boyhood surroundings, secured eight acres of the Bidwell estate, west end of Lake Garfield, and finished and occupied the residence with his family this season." It is unclear from records available exactly how long the family used the

house. It could have been no more than six years at the most, and probably was less. Why would they go to all the expense and effort of building their grand summer home and stay for such a short time? Some say there was a long financial battle with their workmen and, in fact, it took the next owner years to get clear title. Whatever the cause it must have been major for them to turn their backs on their dream.

The next owner was Annie Hecht, a theatrical agent in New York City just before the turn of the century. She was very successful and able to book theaters with first runs on all the best shows. Eventually some competing agents collaborated and bought her out, paying her over a period of ten years. Sometime before 1905 she moved into Rock Ridge with her mother, second husband, and two sons from her previous marriage, Frank and Walter Hoyt. Annie was a very big thinker. She started with eight acres and, by the time she sold the property in 1920, she had amassed 200. Once when the house needed new shingles, instead of buying them she built a shingle factory. She raised chickens to sell to the "fancy" Manhattan restaurants and Elray Heath was her farm manager. In the attic of the house now known as Lake Farm, at the intersection of Tyringham and Beartown Mountain roads, she used to hang her hams to cure. It was country Victorian life at its best. Nightly Annie's mother, dressed in black lace, would wait at the top of the staircase for an escort to dinner, while Mr. Hecht was rarely in attendance due to starting cocktails too early. Then the payments ran out. Gone were the days of freely spending money for the latest scheme, gone the free easy life. Rock Ridge became an inn. Once when some local residents came to visit their friends who were staying there, they were told curtly that the ice cream being served was only for the paying guests. Annie pulled in the belt too late however, and by 1920 she was saved from bankruptcy by Arthur Somers, who took over the mortgage because he felt sorry for her.

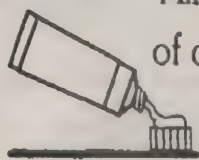
While building the "big house" as the family called the large white house on Route 23, now owned by Denise and

Bruce Kelly, Arthur Somers and his family lived at Rock Ridge. Later, when he tried to give it to his son Andrew and daughter-in-law Edna, they declined. She worried that it might not be safe for her children due to the steep slope of the hill that ends at the lake. Also, they had their own beautiful house on the lake. (Little did Arthur know that over fifty years later, in 1976, his grandson and namesake Arthur, and his wife Alice, would begin negotiating to buy the house.) Sometime during that period the house was rented to a man who worked for the Herald Tribune and his typing could be heard bouncing off the lake at all hours. The Somers sold to the Mar family in 1925.

The good life returned when the Mars, Harold and Annabelle (Bea) moved in with their two young daughters, Jessie and Helen. Harold Mar was an investment counselor for a Philadelphia firm and could easily travel in that capacity, so the Mars spent June through Christmas at the house, which they named "Far Hills Farm." Bea loved poetry, music, the arts, gardening, and had spiritual interests as well. They lovingly redecorated and repaired their twenty-seven year old home, and invited many talented and interesting guests to share it's rooms and grounds. One evening, Annie Lee Morse, niece of the inventor of Morse Code, was singing at a party when the two family macaws joined in. Harold Mar raced with their cages out to the carriage house, barely hiding a huge grin. The Mars loved their pets. They had goldfish, dogs, cats, turtles, and Pattie the pony, as well as the singing macaws. It was paradise for their two daughters. The farm was managed by Earnie Wessberg and his son, and there was enough help to field an entire baseball team. With the exception of two fires, life was idyllic. One summer, when the hay stored in the barn for the white leg-horns spontaneously combusted, the barn caught fire. Another time when the furnace caught fire, most of the town turned out to watch firemen pull Bea's clothing out of the smoke while announcing to the crowd the name of each article. The Mars were very well liked in town. Harold often put piles of nickels on the juke box for the teenagers at Nina Tyron's Tea

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Room. Finally a family had come to fulfill the original dream of the Judd's, to have an elegant home for the summertime on Lake Garfield.

Arriving in 1937, the next owners, Harold W. and Beatrice B. Schwab could not have been more perfect for the times. An energetic and far-sighted businessman, Harold began immediately putting his unique stamp on Rock Ridge. He built the current boathouse on what was formerly an island, adding landfill, sand for a beach, and three docks. In the main house he added three rooms and one bathroom on the third floor for his many guests, built a shooting range, and put up the flag pole. The war was on and he had a textile mill in Rhode Island which made the fabric for officers uniforms. One day the man who delivered ice, a Mr. Scherer, had his pants torn by the family Saint Bernard, and was given two pairs in settlement. Harold had wisely become self sufficient at the beginning of the war, planting a huge victory garden and buying farm animals, so there was always enough food for the many visitors. Quartermaster General William H. Middleswart and his wife, Alice, were close friends and regular guests. Because of the gasoline shortage people came and stayed for months. By 1942 the Rock Ridge chick ranch peaked at 20,000 chickens, and Harold was taking courses in agriculture. During the forties and fifties stag parties, cards, dice, softball, skeet, and rifle shooting were the order of the day. In the sixties Harold turned his energy to developing the various buildings on his property into summer houses, keeping thirteen and one half acres with his own home. He died in 1973 leaving his son Harold and widow, Beatrice, who sold the house to Arthur and Alice Somers in 1978.

I need hardly write what Arthur and Alice Somers did for the house, as their efforts on behalf of Rock Ridge were known and appreciated by everyone. They opened their hearts and all the beauty and peace of their property to the town for many memorable events: "I Love Monterey" days, music festivals, and Art Council productions. They also had plans for weekend conferences. In short more than any of the previous own-



*The entrance to Rock Ridge circa 1925 when the stately stone pillars were covered with ivy. Photo courtesy of Ginny Duffy.*

ers, they shared their glorious home. Their four children and their grandchildren fell in love with the old house and they spent magical Christmases there. They roofed, papered, painted, sanded the floors, cleaned, and tried their best to bring Rock Ridge back to it's original glory. Alice had the house put on the Historic Registry and found out a great deal about the plans of the landscaper, the Frederick Law Olmstead firm. They bought the house because they could feel it's beautiful soul and because they had admired it as a year-round lake house while boating on Lake Garfield. They gave us, the current owners, the greatest possible—they let us buy their house. (We were

shocked and disappointed to find that they didn't come with the house, however, we're doing our best to get them to spend this August with us.)

In late June 1996, Bob and I closed on Rock Ridge after living in South Egremont for thirteen years. As we continue what Arthur and Alice started we've never worked harder nor been happier. Rock Ridge is the first real home we've ever known. Here we feel blessed all the time. As our neighbor Stella Bodner said, "We who live on this ridge know why we are here." It's a healing and magical place to live and we're very, very grateful.

— Ginny Duffy

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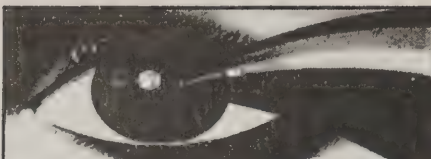
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## SENATOR SAYS

**Budget.** The State Senate passed a \$19.5 billion budget proposal for the 1999 fiscal year. The current strength of the economy gives us the opportunity to increase spending on school and social programs while returning money to the taxpayers. The Senate budget includes a \$540 million progressive tax cut package, as well as funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) account, education reform and various economic development initiatives.

• The budget increases the PILOT account by \$2 million. The Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin district has the largest amount of state parks and forests in the state. The increase will bring economic assistance to municipal governments while protecting the beauty of our area.

• Schools in the district will receive \$91.5 million from the state, which is an increase of \$8.7 million over last year. Reid Middle School in Pittsfield is one of fifty one schools in the state that will be part of a building assistance program. \$22.25 million was also set aside to fund academic tutoring and support services statewide. Youth Build, which provides GED preparation and on-the-job training, received a \$500,000 increase in its funding. An additional \$1 million was budgeted for arts education, which is

an important investment in our cultural life.

• The Senate is following up on a promise made last year to fully fund regional school transportation within three years, allocating in FY99 \$5.3 million more than the FY98 allocation.

• An additional \$12.5 million was set aside for anti-hunger programs, particularly those that expand benefits for school children. Food stamps for legal immigrants were also funded.

• The tax cut package includes a doubling of the personal exemption for all income tax filers. The exemption will be increased to \$4,400 for single filers and \$8,800 for joint filers. Low and moderate-income seniors will benefit from the elimination of taxes on unearned income for single filers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$30,000 and less than \$60,000 for joint filers. This reduction will affect eighty percent of seniors in the County with unearned income. Parents and students paying off student loans will also receive important help. Interest on student loans will be tax deductible.

**Minimum Wage Increase.** Budget debate on June 2 also included approval for an amendment which will increase the minimum wage in the state from \$5.25 to \$6.75 over the next two-and-half years. After the wage reaches \$6.75 in the year 2000,

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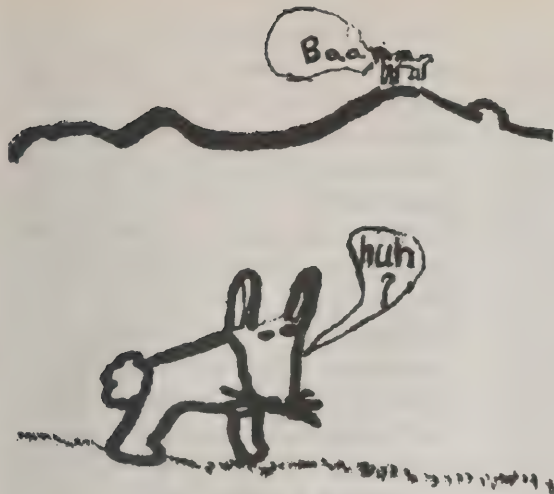
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by Katie Olds

future increases will be indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), ensuring that wages keep pace with inflation. This increase will give workers a fair share in the benefits of a strong economy.

**Berkshire County Projects.** The Senate also passed a companion bill to the budget, provisions of which fund four projects in Berkshire County. The Department of Housing and Community Development received \$250,000 to develop a re-use plan for the New England Log Homes site in Great Barrington. Market feasibility, soil clean-up and demolition of broken-down structures may be part of the program.

The visitors beach in Clarksburg

State Forest was also targeted for improvements. Modern comfort stations will be added to the beach, to complement those on the other side of the lake. Steven Cote, a Clarksburg Town Selectman, told me that he expects to see increased activity in the part next spring as a result.

The town of Cheshire will receive \$100,000 toward stopping the erosion along the banks of Kitchen Brook. The erosion currently threatens homes and businesses located alongside the brook. The money will be used to design and begin a program to slow the damage. It is important to reduce this threat to public

safety, and stem the problems the erosion is causing for residents.

The Jug End State Reservation in Egremont will be the subject of a feasibility study for the restoration of Jug End Pond. This is an essential first step for restoring the swimming pond and expanding the recreational uses of the Reservation, a much-loved amenity for generations of visitors and residents.

Thanks to all the local officials and residents who talked to me about these projects. It was exciting to be able to fund programs that will improve the resources and welfare of Berkshire County.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.



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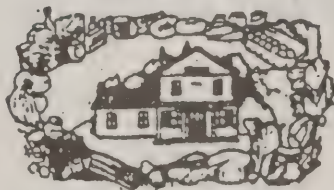
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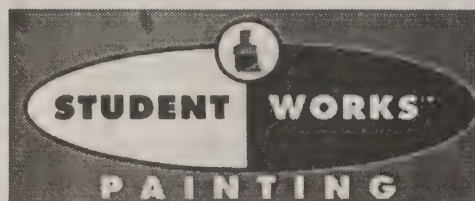
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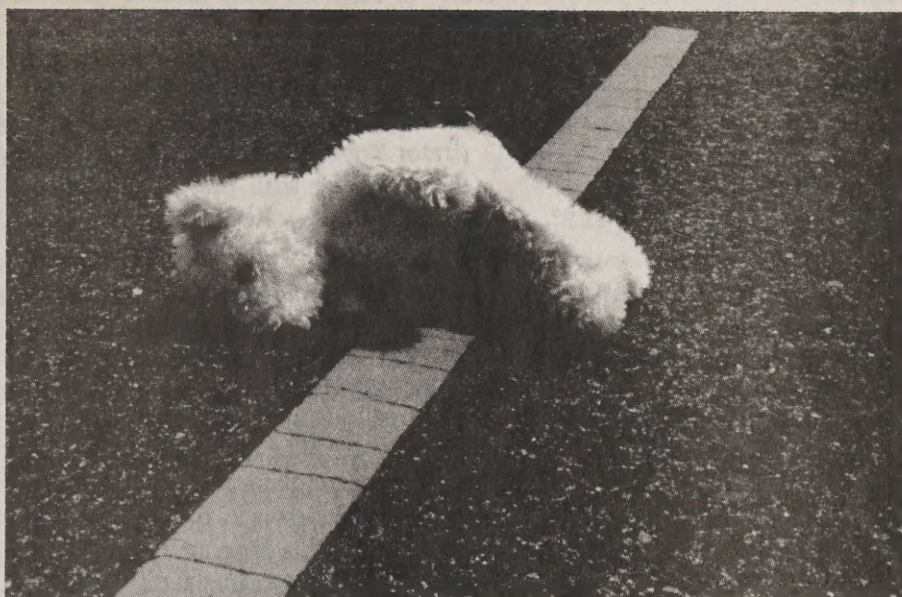
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*This critter was spotted on Route 23 near the entrance to Gould Farm. The photographer, Maureen Meier, said it was her first bear sighting in Monterey.*

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Wind chilled low temp. (6/3). 21.2°

Avg. high temp. 71.3°

Avg. low temp. 51.0°

Avg. temp. 61.2°

Precipitation-rain on 17 days 6.88"

High bar. press. (6/21 & 22) 30.19"

Low bar. press (6/14). 29.38"

High wind gust (6/3) 39 mph.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

**Take a magical journey on July 18.** Actress Kate Macguire and illustrator Robert Sauber join forces in a story telling with projected images from the illustrated book *Sirko and the Wolf*. This Russian fairy tale, adapted by Eric A. Kimmel, comes alive with Sauber's vivid, impressionistic images and Macguire's dramatic narrative. This magical journey for kids and their parents takes place at the New Marlborough Meeting House on Saturday, July 18 at 10 a.m. Admission is \$1 for children, \$5 for adults. This program is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For information and tickets, call (413) 229-3126.

"Take a Magical Journey" is the first event in New Marlborough's *Music & More* for the Meeting House series. Founded and directed by pianist Harold Lewin, the series was designed to raise money for the restoration of the 1839 Greek Revival meeting house. Now in its seventh year, *Music & More* will present programs throughout the summer including soprano Osceola Davis and Friends in a combination program of Negro spirituals and chamber music, Calliope: A Renaissance Band, and an evening with award-winning authors Barbara Goldsmith, William Kennedy, and Gerald Posner.

## CALENDAR

**Sundays**, AA meeting 9 a.m., in the Monterey Fire House, Main Road.

**Saturday, July 4**, Town Hall closed for the holiday.

**Saturday, July 4**, "Contradancing & Nightjar," 4:30-7:30 p.m., Contradancing on the lawn at Gould Farm. Grilled picnic foods sold all evening. Music starts at 6 p.m. Suggested donation \$4.

**Saturday, July 11**, "I Love Monterey" Day celebration, see detailed schedule on page 10.

**Friday, July 17**, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Historical Society meets in the General Knox room adjacent to the library. Kathy Wasiuk presents research into the alleged murder of Lafayette Battelle in 1915.

**Monday, July 20**, 10 a.m.-noon, South County La Leche League meets at the Guthrie Center, Great Barrington. Free advice and support for breast-feeding. For questions and directions call Maureen at 528-6619.

**Thursday, July 23**, 5 p.m., Wilson/McLaughlin House meeting, at the Wilson property, New Marlborough Road.

**Saturday, July 25**, Square and contradancing 8:30-11:30 p.m., at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments served at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information (413) 528-9385 or (518) 329-7578.

**Thursday, July 30**, Community Supper, 6:30 p.m., bring a dish to share. Leonard Weber will be discussing his art work.

**Friday, July 31**, Special Town Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, Main Road.

**Saturday, August 1**, 10 a.m., Second Homeowners meet with Select Board, Town Hall, Main Road.

**Saturday, August 1**, 2-4 p.m., The Bidwell House Annual Folk Concert featuring Mountain Laurel Band playing early dance tunes on fiddle, guitar, and hammer dulcimer. Admission: Adults \$8, children \$5. The Bidwell House is located at 100 Art School Road, Monterey. Call 528-6888 for information.

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## PERSONAL NOTES

Unfortunately, somewhere between editing and printing, last month's *Personal Notes* disappeared. We know that some of our readers noticed—we certainly did! We hope you will all enjoy reading a double batch of news this month.

Rick and Denise Andrus announce the birth of their son, Hunter Thomas, on March 3, raising the number of grandchildren for Tom and Pat Andrus to ten. On March 15, Denise and Chris Carnese became the proud parents of a son, Cameron Joseph. Cameron is the first grandchild for Pat and George Crocco and Caroline and Paul Carnese's tenth. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kenneth Pratt, son of Kay and Arnold Pratt of Monterey, on his marriage on May 8 to Erica Lynne Trevethan. Erica's parents are Terri Ignace of Sandisfield, and Richard Trevethan of Newington, CT.

Congratulations are also due to Rachel Rodgers who graduated on May 16 from Wheaton College in Norton, MA, receiving a B.A. degree in History with a minor in French. Rachel was named to the Dean's List for the winter and spring semesters, and has accepted the position of curator at the Cape May County Historical and Genealogy Society. The society is located at the Cape May Court House in New Jersey. Rachel's proud parents are Cathy and Bud Rodgers of Main Road, Monterey.

The Monument Mountain third quarter honor roll includes several Monterey names. High honors were earned in Grade 12 by Bethany Sadlowski, and in Grade 9 by Maggie Clawson and Mariah Rutherford-Olds, and honors were earned in Grade 9 by Lauren Goldfinger and James Hall. The third quarter honor roll from Mount Everett also included a number of students from Monterey. High honors were earned in Grade 9 by Hannah Bracken and Katie Vallianos, and in Grade 7 by Claire Mielke, and honors were earned in Grade 10 by Emily Sottile, in Grade 9 by Kim

Gero and Cristina Temenos, and in Grade 8 by Abby Childs. Well done to all of you!

On the afternoon of June 21, the Berkshire Children's Chorus held its Gala Send-Off concert at St. James' church in Great Barrington. The Chorus sang beautifully, and Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker played wonderful music on the dulcimer and guitar. On Thursday, June 25, the chorus left for Germany for the first stage of a thirteen-day trip to Europe. The centerpiece of the trip is the seven-day Third International Children's Choral Festival in Tuscany, Italy, but the travels begin with three days in Pittsfield's sister city, Straubing in Germany, and end with three days in Rome. Several Monterey residents are participating in this adventure. Deirdre Higgins and Maggie Clawson are veteran members of the chorus, and Ann Higgins is going along as one of the chaperones.

Happy Birthday on June 8 to Todd Bynack, on June 13 to Kay Pratt, on June 14 to Nicole Andrus, on June 16 to Michael Bynack and John Higgins, on June 18 to Sandy Gottlieb, on June 19 to Christopher Blair and Pam Gauthier, on June 23 to Jane Thorn, on June 28 to Eileen Clawson and Colm Higgins, and on June 30 to Grace Mendel.

Happy Birthday wishes for July go out on July 1 to Nancy Kalodner and Kyle Wing, on July 7 to Walter Parks, on July 14 to Jerry Raab, on

July 15 to Harold Green and Jessica Thorn, on July 18 to Leonard Weber, on July 21 to Lena Green and Joseph Kopetchny, on July 23 to Richard Sheridan, on July 24 to Thomas Lipsky, and on July 28 to Charles McTavish.

Happy Anniversary on June 18 to Dean and Fran Amidon, on June 21 to Sandy and Rita Gottlieb, on June 23 to Kyle and Phebe Wing, on June 26 to Dan and Betsy Andrus, and on June 29 to Terry and Joan Wing. Anniversary wishes go out on July 1 to "Tim" and Grace Burke.

We enjoy hearing your news, and passing on Birthday and Anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, or give me a call at 528-6691, if possible, before the fifteenth of each month. If you prefer to use e-mail, my address is [higgins@vgernet.net](mailto:higgins@vgernet.net). Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins

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*Contributions from local artists this month: Bonner McAllester, p. 15, Katie Olds pg. 19.*

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